

24 March 2020  
Pastoral Nature Notes  
Father Joseph Backowski

## ***Madam Marble Eye***

I walked down to the brook this morning and as I watched the extra melt water traverse the brook, making it higher than normal, the brook quietly gurgled at me. As I listened to the water make its way through the rocks and fallen limbs, it occurred to me that our favorite state fish will soon be making its annual spring spawning run. Swimming upstream Madam Marble Eye will be looking for some oxygen rich places to lay her eggs. Madam Marble Eye has eyes specially designed by God himself to assist her in traversing the sediment laden water of the brook. Have you ever wondered why in clear lakes walleyes only bite at night? It is because their eyes are made to see in darkness, they are made to see in murkiness, they are made to see in turbidity. Too much light hurts Madam Marble Eye's most clever adaptation! Madam Marble Eye is a natural God given sign to us of the Church he gave us through Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church we may not understand, just like a first glance at Madam Marble Eye's glass looking eyes may cause us to pause and wonder so too our Mother the Church. She can confuse us, she may not be very efficient, she may also bring a healthy curiosity in us. Whatever we see at the outset if we look deeper, we can see She is really looking to give us a spiritual place full of rich oxygen in which She can lay us there carefully upstream, just as Madam Marble Eye seeks for her soon to be laid and waiting little ones. This means that in good times Holy Mother Church must swim upstream of the culture and the world. In times of tribulation, murkiness, and darkness She has been given the special eyes of Faith, through the Sacred Scriptures, through her knowledge and experience of history, and most importantly through the promise of Christ given in, and through, the Holy Spirit "Behold I am with you always even to the End of the World." The next time then you boat or ice Madam Marble Eye, gaze deeply into her eyes and see in them how God has given you Holy Mother Church to guide you and to care for you to a place of rich and abundant "oxygen" not in a stream or on this earth. Rather and most importantly upstream in the Glory and Majesty of Heaven.